

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	Patent Application of Peter Daute, <i>et al.</i>	: Group Art Unit: 1714
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Appln. No.	09/807,165	: Examiner: Callie E. Shosho
		:
Filed:	July 2, 2001	: Confirmation No. 3060
		:
For:	SPHERONIZED GRANULES, PLASTIC ADDITIVE COMPOSITIONS CONTAIN- ING THE SAME AND METHODS OF USE THEREFOR (as amended)	: Attorney Docket No. H3722 US
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		:
Customer No.	23657	:

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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February 17, 2006  
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REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or

In response to the October 26, 2005 Office Action, kindly amend the application as indicated below.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 6.

Amendments to the Claims

The "Listing of Claims" replaces all pending claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) An additive composition for thermoplastic polymer materials, comprising granules containing at least one plastic additive comprising a consisting essentially of a component selected from the group consisting of a calcium soap, a zinc soap and mixtures thereof ~~antistatic agents, antifogging agents, antioxidants, UV stabilizers, coupling agents, calendering aids, mold release agents, lubricants, release agents, slip agents, plasticizers, perfumes, flame retardants, fillers, heat stabilizers, and mixtures thereof~~, wherein the granules are substantially spherical and have a diameter of from 0.5 to 5 mm.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules have a diameter of from 0.8 to 3 mm.

9. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules have a uniform size and shape.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the granules have a length-to-diameter ratio of 1:1.

12-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently amended) A granular composition for thermoplastic polymer materials prepared by a process comprising the steps of:

(a) providing cylindrical granules of a composition containing consisting essentially of ~~at least one plastic additive comprising a component selected from the group consisting of~~ a calcium soap, a zinc soap and mixtures thereof ~~antistatic agents, antifogging agents, antioxidants, UV stabilizers, coupling agents, calendering aids, mold release agents, lubricants, release agents, slip agents, plasticizers, perfumes, flame retardants, fillers, heat stabilizers, and mixtures thereof; and~~

(b) spheronizing the cylindrical granules to form substantially spherical granules having a diameter of from 0.5 to 5 mm.

16. (Currently Amended) The granular composition according to claim 15, wherein the step of providing the cylindrical granules comprises: (i) extruding a composition containing the at least one plastic additive component into a fine strand; and (ii) cutting the fine strand into cylindrical granules.

17. (Previously Presented) The granular composition according to claim 16, wherein the composition is extruded using a twin-screw extruder.

18. (Previously Presented) The granular composition according to claim 17, wherein the composition is extruded at a temperature of from 20 to 110°C and a pressure of from 25 to 60 bar.

19. (Previously Presented) The granular composition according to claim 15, wherein spheronizing is accomplished using a spheronizer having a rotating bottom disk.

20. (Previously Presented) The granular composition according to claim 19, wherein spheronizing is performed at a rotational speed of 320 rpm with a residence time of 30 seconds.

21. (Previously Presented) The granular composition according to claim 15, wherein the process further comprises impregnating the granules with an additional active substance.

22. (Previously Presented) The granular composition according to claim 21, wherein impregnating the granules with an additional active substance is accomplished via surface-powdering.

23. (Previously Presented) The granular composition according to claim 22, wherein the surface powdering is carried out at least partly during spheronizing.

24. (Previously Presented) The granular composition according to claim 18, wherein spheronizing is carried out using a spheronizer having a rotating bottom disk operating at a rotational speed of 320 rpm with a residence time of 30 seconds; and the process further comprises impregnating the granules with an additional active substance.

25. (Currently amended) A method of for stabilizing a thermoplastic polymer composition during processing, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a thermoplastic polymer composition;
- (b) providing a granular composition comprising granules containing at least one plastic additive comprising a consisting essentially of a component selected from the group consisting of a calcium soap, a zinc soap, and mixtures thereof antistatic agents, antifogging agents, antioxidants, UV stabilizers, coupling agents, calendering aids, mold

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~~release agents, lubricants, release agents, slip agents, plasticizers, perfumes, flame retardants, fillers, heat stabilizers, and mixtures thereof, wherein the granules are substantially spherical and have a diameter of from 0.5 to 5 mm; and~~

(c) combining the thermoplastic polymer composition and the granular composition prior to processing completion.

26. (New) The additive composition according to Claim 1, incorporated into a polyvinylchloride polymer.

27. (New) The granular composition according to Claim 15, incorporated into a polyvinylchloride polymer.

28. (New) The additive composition according to Claim 25, wherein the thermoplastic polymer composition comprises polyvinylchloride.